

Collect

Eternal Father, whose Son Jesus Christ ascended to the throne of heaven that he might rule over all things as Lord and King: keep the Church in the unity of the Spirit and in the bond of peace, and bring the whole created order to worship at his feet; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

First Reading**Revelation 15.1–4**

A reading from the book of Revelation

Then I saw another portent in heaven, great and amazing: seven angels with seven plagues, which are the last, for with them the wrath of God is ended. And I saw what appeared to be a sea of glass mixed with fire, and those who had conquered the beast and its image and the number of its name standing beside the sea of glass with harps of God in their hands. And they sing the song of Moses, the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb:

‘Great and amazing are your deeds,
 Lord God the Almighty!
 Just and true are your ways,
 King of the nations!
 Lord, who will not fear
 and glorify your name?
 For you alone are holy.
 All nations will come
 and worship before you,
 for your judgements have been revealed.’

Gospel**Luke 21.12–19**

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

‘But before all this occurs, they will arrest you and persecute you; they will hand you over to synagogues and prisons, and you will be brought before kings and governors because of my name. This will give you an opportunity to testify. 14 So make up your minds not to prepare your defence in advance; for I will give you words and a wisdom that none of your opponents will be able to withstand or contradict. You will be betrayed even by parents and brothers, by relatives and friends; and they will put some of you to death.

You will be hated by all because of my name. But not a hair of your head will perish. By your endurance you will gain your souls.

Additional Collect

Stir up, O Lord,
 the wills of your faithful people;
 that they, plenteously bringing forth the fruit of good works,
 may by you be plenteously rewarded;
 through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Today we Remember:**Isaac Watts – Hymn Writer**

Our God, our help in ages past,
 Our hope for years to come,
 Our shelter from the stormy blast,
 And our eternal home.

Beneath the shadow of Thy throne
 Still may we dwell secure;
 Sufficient is Thine arm alone,
 And our defence is sure.

Before the hills in order stood,
 Or earth received her frame,
 From everlasting Thou art God,
 To endless years the same.

A thousand ages in Thy sight
 Are like an evening gone;
 Short as the watch that ends the night
 Before the rising sun.

Time, like an ever rolling stream,
 Bears all its sons away;
 They fly, forgotten, as a dream
 Dies at the opening day.

Our God, our help in ages past,
 Our hope for years to come,
 Be Thou our guard while troubles last,
 And our eternal home.

Isaac Watts (1674 -1748) alt